

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 02771 180457Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /067 W
-----087424 180505Z /14
P 180359Z EB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1931

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2771

E.O. 1162: GDS
TAGS: PINTS, SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: AQUINO'S APPEAL FOR RELEASE

REF: MANILA 2698

1. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION THIS MORNING (FEBRUARY 18)
POL COUNSELOR ASKED AQUINO'S WIFE IF AQUINO HAD RECEIVED
ANY RESPONSE TO LATEST APPEAL FOR TEMPORARY RELEASE
(REFTEL). MRS. AQUINO REPLIED TO THE CONTRARY BUT
CALLED OUR ATTENTION TO TEODORO VALENCIA'S COLUMN
IN FEBRUARY 18 DAILY EXPRESS. PERTINENT PORTION
FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE GOVERNMENT CAN RECONSIDER ITS
DECISION TO DISALLOW MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION WHO ARE
UNDER DETENTION FROM CAMPAIGNING OUTSIDE THEIR DETENTION
AREAS. A GENERAL PERMISSION IS DEFINITELY OUT OF THE
QUESTION-THE ELECTION SHOULD NOT BE UTILIZED TO GAIN
TEMPORARY FREEDOM. BUT ON A CASE TO CASE BASIS IT
CAN BE JUSTIFIED. IN THE CASE OF FORMER SEN. BENIGNO
S. AQUINO, JR., I CAN ENDORSE HIS DESIRE TO BE
GIVEN TEMPORARY FREEDOM TO CARRY THE CAMPAIGN AND TO
CAMPAIGN FOR HIMSELF. WE CAN DENY THIS TO OTHERS
IF WE WISH.
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I DON'T THINK NINOY WILL RUN TO THE HILLS OR USE
HIS TEMPORARY FREEDOM TO INCITE REBELLION. IF HE DOES,
HE CAN ALWAYS BE PUT BACK IN THE STOCKADE. HE WON'T
HURT (SIC) THE CAUSE OF THE OPPOSITION BY DESTROYING HIS WORD
IF GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE NATION. IN THE

CASE OF NINOY, HE IS ALREADY CONCEDING A LOT BY BEING
A CANDIDATE, THE MAXIMUM HE CAN DO SHORT OF DISOWNING
HIS ORIGINAL POSITION OF TOTAL NEGATION OF MARTIAL LAW.
HE'S RUNNING. THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH. AFTER THAT
CONCESSION TO MARTIAL LAW, WE SHOULD GIVE HIM SOME
CONCESSIONS TOO. IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF HE WERE
TO WIN WITHOUT SHOWING HIS FACE IN PUBLIC. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: ALL INDICATIONS HERETOFORE HAVE BEEN THAT
MARCOS IS NOT PREPARED TO RELEASE AQUINO TO CAMPAIGN.
WHETHER OR NOT VALENCIA'S COMMENTARY IS A STRAW IN THE
WIND REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
NEWSOM

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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